

# Calendar No. 1876

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SENATE

{ REPORT  
{ No. 1934

## DR. MANUEL MAGTALIS GERONIMO AND DR. RITA VILLAROMAN GERONIMO

JUNE 27, 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the  
following

### R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 4001]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 4001) for the relief of Dr. Manuel Magtalis Geronimo and Dr. Rita Villaroman Geronimo, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

#### PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Dr. Manuel Magtalis Geronimo and Dr. Rita Villaroman Geronimo. The bill provides for appropriate quota deductions and for the payment of the required visa fees and head taxes.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiaries of the bill are husband and wife and they are 44- and 42-year-old natives and citizens of the Philippine Islands. They last arrived in the United States as visitors on September 19, 1946. Both are medical doctors and they are presently employed as resident physicians at the St. Francis Hospital, Greenville, S. C. In July of 1950 they adopted a child who was born at the St. Francis Hospital on June 30, 1950.

A letter, with attached memorandum, dated March 27, 1952, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case reads as follows:

MARCH 27, 1952.

HON. EMANUEL CELLER,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (H. R. 4001) for the relief of Dr. Manuel Magtalas Geronimo and Dr. Rita Villaroman Geronimo, aliens. The bill would grant them permanent residence in the United States.

A memorandum prepared by the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department setting forth the facts in the cases of these aliens is attached.

The only apparent basis for exceptional treatment in this case is the adoption by the aliens of a United States citizen child. Should it be administratively determined that the aliens are entitled to relief on that basis, there would be no need for the instant bill. However, the Board of Immigration Appeals has held in the case of recently arrived aliens who were the natural parents of a United States citizen child, that such administrative relief would not be granted. In either event the record fails to present facts which would justify the enactment of special legislation granting them a preference over other aliens similarly situated who desire permanent residence in this country.

Accordingly, this Department is unable to recommend enactment of the measure.

Sincerely,

A. DEVITT VANECH,  
*Deputy Attorney General.*

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION  
SERVICE FILES RE DR. MANUEL MAGTALAS GERONIMO AND HIS WIFE, DR.  
RITA VILLAROMAN GERONIMO, BENEFICIARIES OF H. R. 4001

Dr. Manuel Magtalas Geronimo was born in Pulilan, Philippine Islands, on January 1, 1908, and Dr. Rita Villaroman Geronimo was born in San Rafael, Philippine Islands, on March 4, 1910. They are citizens of the Philippine Islands of the Filipino race. They both last arrived in the United States at the port of San Francisco, Calif., on September 19, 1946, and were admitted as temporary visitors until March 17, 1950. They received extensions of their temporary stay to February 18, 1951. Warrants of arrest in deportation proceedings have been applied for in their cases on the ground that after admission as visitors they have remained in the United States longer than permitted.

These aliens were married to each other in 1939. There are no children of the marriage. On arrival they were accompanying Francisco Villaroman, a brother of the female alien, who was coming for the purpose of taking treatment for high blood pressure. The brother returned to the Philippine Islands in 1951 but subsequently reentered the United States. Both beneficiaries of the bill contend that on arrival they intended to return to the Philippine Islands. In February 1950 both aliens accepted employment as resident physicians at the St. Francis Hospital, Greenville, S. C., where each received \$125 a month. Both are members of the Medical Society of the Philippines.

During July 1950 these aliens adopted a child born at the St. Francis Hospital on June 30, 1950. The child is a citizen of the United States and is dependent upon them for its support. Whether or not the adoptive parents would be eligible for suspension of deportation pursuant to the provisions of section 19 (c) (2) of the Immigration Act of 1917, as amended (8 U. S. C. 155 (c) (2)), would, of course, have to be determined in proceedings predicated on an application for such relief filed by the aliens.

The quota for the Philippine Islands, to which the aliens are chargeable, is oversubscribed and immigration visas are not readily obtainable.

Congressman Joseph R. Bryson, the author of the bill, appeared before a subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and submitted the following information in connection with the case:

SOUTHERN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,  
SOUTHERN MEDICAL JOURNAL,  
Greenville, S. C., May 25, 1951.

Congressman JOSEPH R. BRYSON,  
*House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR JOE: I am writing you in regard to Dr. Emanuel Geronimo. Dr. Joe Bob has shown me Dr. Wilkinson and Dr. Goldsmith's letters in protest with your replies. I am in sympathy with the movement to extend the Geronimos' visas. I have a complete abstract of his premed and all of his medical training that will stand him in good standing once he is allowed to stay on as a citizen of this country. Dr. Joe Bob will send you the full abstract of his training which shows that he finished an A school in the Philippines. He has had excellent postoperative training in this country. I think Dr. Wilkinson went off half-cocked when he called him a foreigner and a Spaniard. He is a Filipino, born and reared under the direct control of the United States over his life.

I look upon him at least closer to me than some foreigners and he feels like he is a part of this great country. I am sorry Dr. Wilkinson attempted to hurt him by an unfair blank charge.

Dr. Wilkinson is probably fed up with these class B graduates that have been in Greenville from Massachusetts in the past 10 years. Dr. Geronimo does not belong in their class and I see no connection between your resolution in Congress in an effort to allow him to make application for naturalized citizenship and Dr. Wilkinson's charge of foreign physicians. He is doing good work at St. Francis and we all need him.

I feel sure that once all doctors know his real status they will not classify him along with class B Massachusetts doctors.

With all best wishes, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

W. THOMAS BROCKMAN, M. D.

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ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL,  
Greenville, S. C., August 26, 1951.

Hon. JOSEPH BRYSON,  
*House of Congress, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAREST CONGRESSMAN: My wife and I were so deeply pleased and highly honored when we heard that Your Honor had introduced a bill in the House of Congress in our behalf. We could not express in words our utmost admiration, appreciation, and sincerest gratitude to you. We are very, very grateful that we could hardly think of how we could repay you for your interest and magnificent help, doing for our sake. What you have shown and done to us will always stay in our memory and in our hearts. We are at your service and anything we can do for you we are willing even at the risk of our lives.

Our papers are on the way to your hand. We are deeply sorry that the arrival of our papers was delayed on account of the difficulty of the folks at home in locating these papers. We hope these papers will clear the doubt of some who are trying to smear and obstruct our stay in this country. Hoping further that Your Honor with the help of our Lord will finally succeed in pushing that bill.

Receive our personal regards and to your loving family.

Very respectfully yours,

MANUEL GERONIMO, M. D.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H. R. 4001) should be enacted.

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